

## **Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: When will I be required to take the performance assessment?**

A: If you apply for your provisional teaching certificate on or after September 1, 2006. A passing score on the performance assessment is a requirement for converting your provisional certificate to a standard teaching certificate.

**Q: When will I need to take the performance assessment?**

A: You may take the assessment during your first year of teaching but no later than your fifth year of teaching. We recommend that you perform the assessment during your second or third year of teaching.

**Q: Will I need to “do a video” before I can get a provisional certificate?**

A: No. The video is a portion of the performance assessment and is NOT a requirement for obtaining your first provisional teaching certificate.

**Q: I am new to the state of Arizona but have taught in another state and hold a license there. Do I have to take the performance assessment?**

A: Reciprocity rules are undergoing revision to reflect equity for both in-state and out-of-state applicants.

**Q: I hold a provisional certificate in Arizona now. Will I need to take the performance assessment?**

A: No. Only those who are applying for a certificate for the first time on or after September 1, 2006 will need to take the performance assessment.

**Q: I am participating in an online program in order to get my teaching certificate. I will be using my AZ certificate to become certified in my home state. Do I need to take the performance assessment?**

A: No, *unless* you plan on teaching in Arizona or want to convert your Arizona provisional certificate to a standard. Once you obtain a certificate from another state then you must follow that state’s licensure guidelines.

**Q: How much does the assessment cost?**

A: The cost is \$395 which includes support materials and technical assistance.

**Q: Do I have to pay for the assessment?**

A: The cost of the assessment, like all other required assessments, is the responsibility of the teacher.

Q: What if I teach in a charter school?

A: According to Arizona State Statute, teachers in Arizona charter schools are not required to hold a teaching certificate in order to be employed by the school. If you do decide to obtain a certificate then you will need to take the assessment if you are doing so after the September 1, 2006 deadline.

Q: How does this relate to the teacher evaluations conducted by principals?

A: The state's performance assessment is for purposes of licensure and quality assurance that new teachers can demonstrate competence in the Arizona Professional Teaching Standards; evaluations conducted by a teacher's principal are for purposes of continued employment.

Q: What will I have to do to pass this test?

A: The Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment will require a video tape of one's teaching, written commentary, and supporting evidence. Descriptions of the process and materials and methods to support new teachers who will be affected are being developed. Check the ADE Website under "Certification" for regularly updated information on this.

Q: What if I don't pass the first time I take it?

A: Just as ADE provides a variety of support to students and a number of opportunities for them to succeed on the AIMS tests, we are developing a variety of support for teachers affected by this requirement and will offer them up to five attempts to succeed with the performance assessment.

Q: Will Arizona teachers be required to become National Board Certified?

A: No. National Board Certification® is a voluntary process to ascertain "highly accomplished teaching." Although the Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), this is a separate process. We hope that this will lead to more teachers choosing to go for National Board Certification®.